SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Please replace paragraph [0014] on pages 9 though 10 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, relief recesses 9 and 10 are respectively formed on inside surfaces 7 and 8 of the respective tabs 2 and 3 and disposed from the second end portions 2b, 3b to the intermediate portions 2c, 3c of the respective tabs 2, 3. By these relief recesses 9 and 10, a columnar relief space 11 is defined between the pair of tabs 2, 3. A center axis 12 of the relief space 11 is on the axis identical to a center axis 13 of the cylindrical portion 5. Each relief recesses 9, 10 has a first section and a second section along the center axis 12, with the first section being farther from the coupling portion than the second section from the coupling portion. The first and second sections communicate with the corresponding through hole interposed therebetween. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the first section is shorter than the second section along the center axis 12. This relief space 11 serves as a relief when a joint cross is introduced between the pair of tabs 2 and 3 from the side of the second end portions 2b and 3b. As a diameter D1 of the relief space 11, 30 mm or more is preferable.

Please replace paragraph [0025] on page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention is not limited to the embodiment as described above, and, for example, in a case where the universal joint has a great operation angle

for avoiding interference, further relief recesses 17 and 18 may be provided at necessary positions of the inside surfaces [[7]]7' and [[8]]8' of the tabs [[2]]2' and [[3]]3', as shown in FIG. 6 (a reference numeral with a prime refers to an element identical to the one referred to by the same reference numeral in FIGs. 1-5). Here, in FIG. 6, illustration of the relief recesses [[9]]9' and [[10]]10' are omitted.